

What Drawing A Tree Can Reveal About Personality

Just as experts can analyze handwriting to reveal personality traits, drawing a tree can provide a psychologist or psychiatrist with clues about the personality of that individual. No artistic skill is needed to draw the tree or in some cases, a house or a person.

According to art therapist Francine Levesque, philosopher and psychiatrist Carl Jung equated the roots to the unconscious, the trunk to the conscious and the crown to the goals of life. The trunk may be perceived as the person's body and the branches as a reflection of how well a person relates to others.

On her Tree Reading website, Dr. Janet Crain teaches a specific technique called dendrographology. In an app called Dr. Touch, the user draws on the screen whatever picture is requested and receives an assessment. Watching the video, this app definitely falls in the fun rather than the serious category.

Tree Reading for Character Insight

A Social Sciences website called Shvoong attributes specific characteristics to specific parts of the tree: roots, trunk, branches and foliage. For instance, "thick strong roots" reflect someone who is "resolute" and "well-grounded." No roots suggests someone who tends to be superficial. A thin trunk that's thick with foliage on top equates to full use of intelligence in this viewpoint.

Interpretations on Way of the Mind include heavy lines in drawing of the trunk as a sign of "anxiety." Small branches mean that person may have difficulty reaching out. Pointy branches reflect an aggressive type. Fruit is a positive; knotholes may reveal trauma as well as the time frame, based on where the knothole is located.

In one classroom exercise, students draw a tree and answer multiple questions about the characteristics of their drawing. For instance: Is it small? Is it large? Is it pointed on top? Does it bend like the wind? Once students have put an X beside the descriptors that apply, they check another list of corresponding numbers that interpret the characteristics. In the case of small, it means "Not wasteful, careful with money." Big means "Generous." Pointed on top means "Ambitious." Bending means "Restless, full of energy."

Tree Reading for Entertainment

A blog from Bulgaria asks the viewer to draw a tree and then compare it to various sketches shown. This tree reading is for entertainment. The trees are categorized and traits assigned to each: a deciduous tree, palm tree, fruit tree, willow tree and winter tree. The fruit tree for example reflects a person with a positive self-image. Draw a winter tree that's bare and you are likely an outgoing person although also

one who is “easily influenced.” If leaves completely hide the main branches of your deciduous tree, that’s a “sign of over-perfection.”

Personality of Trees Based on Birthdates

The title of this website is “What Kind of Tree Are You?” A graph lists a sequence of dates and assigns a tree to each. For instance, if you were born between December 23 and 31 or June 25 to July 4, you are an Apple Tree. If you were born between August 14 and 23, you are a Cedar Tree. The Apple stands for “The Love Of” and means the person is charming, attractive, flirtatious and “always in love.” Cedar stands for “The Confidence Of” and that person has rare beauty, likes luxury, makes a good companion, falls in love then out of love quickly. Those are excerpts from a long list of traits for the listed trees. In the case of this website, you don’t have to draw.

Sources:

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